

1 **OVERTURE 35** from the Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to AC)
2 “Request AC to Study and Report on GA Meeting Locations”
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4 **Be it resolved**, the 52nd General Assembly (GA) requests the Administrative Committee (AC)
5 to research and report to the 54th GA on necessary considerations and best practices
6 for selecting and affording appropriate host cities and venues, and the impact of
7 location on broad commissioner attendance across the PCA.
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9 **Rationale** — We understand that in the post-COVID environment, the hospitality industry
10 has experienced significant cost pressures, coinciding with historic highs in GA
11 Commissioner attendance over the last four years. With growth comes the need for larger
12 spaces. Therefore, it is important to determine the best locations for future GAs, considering
13 several factors. For example, should we consider larger cities with hub airports or continue to
14 gather in a mix of mid-size markets in the Southeast and elsewhere? Would commissioners
15 prefer to meet, for example, in ATL every year?

16 Additionally, the AC should evaluate how well we're representing the entire PCA at
17 GA as the denomination continues to expand beyond the Southeast. This includes considering
18 site selection across the country and its impact on reaching commissioner attendance that
19 broadly represents the PCA.

20 Two years ago, at the 50th GA in Memphis, 38% of our 87 Presbyteries had between
21 0 and 4 Ruling Elder (RE) commissioners, totaling just 42 RE commissioners. This is the
22 same number of REs who attended from Covenant Presbytery alone. Put another way, 38%
23 of our Presbyteries supplied 6% of the RE commissioners. Last year, at the 51st GA in
24 Richmond, just 8 of our Presbyteries (9%) provided over 33% of all RE commissioners. This
25 disparity may be related, at least in part, to where GA is held.

26 Only one of 52 GA has been held west of the Rockies (1989 La Mirada, CA). Only 7
27 have been west of the Mississippi River (5 in Texas). Because many commissioners in the
28 western half of the US probably need to fly to GA, having GA in a city with an airline hub
29 could be beneficial. This also means very few western churches or Presbyteries have had the
30 opportunity to plan or lead a GA worship service. Below are the 16 states where our 52 GAs
31 have been held. Sixty percent have been in six states: Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Texas,
32 Florida, and Virginia (32 of 53; 60%). Numbers correspond to the GA number:
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34	TN	16, 33, 35, 38, 43, 50, 52	MI	6, 10, 15
35	AL	1, 19, 30, 34, 44, 49	NC	7, 31, 45
36	GA	2, 5, 8, 18, 22, 46	SC	4, 21, 41
37	TX	23, 29, 36, 42, 47	PA	14, 32
38	FL	9, 24, 28, 37	CA	17
39	VA	11, 20, 39, 51	LA	12
40	KY	27, 40, 53	CO	25
41	MO	13, 26, 48	MS	1

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43 *The initial version of this Overture was approved at Pacific NW's stated meeting on Feb 7, 2025*
44 *A PNW Commission was authorized to revise and file when it deemed most prudent to do so.*
45 *Attested to by: TE Jerid Krulish, Pacific NW Presbytery Clerk*